AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a visualization of an underlying architecture of a software system, said method comprising:

accessing a datafile descriptive of the underlying architecture;

transforming the datafile to determine architectural components used to form the underlying architecture; ~~and~~

rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components ~~on a graphical display~~, the graphical elements forming a graphical representation of the underlying architecture, the graphical representation dependent on a particular mode of a plurality of modes of operation of the visualizer; and

displaying, on a web page, the graphical representation of the underlying architecture.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

generating a plurality of subsections of the graphical image; and

locating the graphical elements in the subsections as described by the datafile.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the subsections are displayed as tiers.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing access to the visualization on a network.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the network is the Internet.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising communicating the rendered graphical representation across a network.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving data for said rendering from a network connection.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

storing the data.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing at least one control on the graphical display;

receiving a selection of the at least one control; and

performing a graphical operation on the graphical display indicative of dynamic functional operations of the underlying architecture.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the datafile includes extensible markup language (XML).

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising executing interactive operations to provide a graphical representation of collaborative interaction between the graphical elements.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising altering the graphical elements based on a selected configuration of the software system.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an event initiated by an operation performed in a second graphical display operating in isolation of actual components of the underlying architecture; and

performing an operation on the graphical display based on the event.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an event initiated by an operation performed in a second graphical display operating in conjunction with actual components of the underlying architecture; and

performing an operation on the graphical display based on the event.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 41 ~~16~~, wherein said ~~processing unit~~ visualizer further:

generates a plurality of subsections on the graphical representation ~~image~~; and

applies a plurality of graphical elements in the subsections ~~as described by the processed information~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 41 ~~16~~, wherein the ~~network is~~ graphical display is a web page on the Internet.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 41 ~~16~~, wherein the visualization is displayed ~~in~~ as a graphical user interface having at least one control for altering the visualization.

22. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 21, wherein the at least one control initiates a simulated event.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 41 ~~16~~, wherein the ~~information~~ datafile includes extensible markup language (XML) code.

25. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 41 ~~16~~, wherein ~~said processing unit~~ host computing system further:

receives an event initiated by an operation performed in a graphical user interface operating in isolation of actual components of the ~~underlying~~ architecture; and

performs an operation on the graphical user interface based on the event.

26. (Currently Amended) The ASP system according to claim 41 ~~16~~, wherein said ~~processing unit~~ host computing system further:

receives an event initiated by an operation performed in a graphical user interface operating in conjunction with actual components of the underlying architecture; and

performs an operation on the graphical display based on the event.

27-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions including instructions, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

access a datafile descriptive of the underlying architecture;

transform the datafile to determine architectural components used to form the underlying architecture; ~~and~~

render, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components on a graphical display, the graphical elements forming a graphical representation of the underlying architecture, the graphical representation dependent on a particular mode of a plurality of modes of operation of the visualizer; and

display, on a web page, the graphical representation of the underlying architecture.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 32, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to communicate the graphical representation of the underlying architecture across a network.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the network is the Internet.

35-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) An application service provider (ASP) system for visualizing an architecture of another distinct system, the ASP system comprising:

a datafile including a description of the architecture;

a host computing system for transforming the datafile;

a visualizer for receiving the transformed datafile and visualizing the architecture, the visualizer operating in one of a plurality of modes of operation; and

a visual display for receiving and displaying the visualized architecture.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components, the visualizer rendering the graphical elements in a direct interaction simulation mode.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components, the visualizer rendering the graphical elements in a prototype simulation mode.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components, the visualizer rendering the graphical elements in a architecture monitor mode.